



FULL TIME DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Job Description

About Christians in Science (CiS)

CiS is an international network of those concerned with the relationship between science and Christian faith, open to scientists, teachers, students and all those with an interest in this dialogue. Although CiS is primarily a professional group, aimed at those working in science, a significant proportion of our members are not scientists, and we are happy to welcome into membership anyone with an interest in science and faith.

Christians in Science is a registered charity and its members include many senior scientists and key opinion formers, young research scientists, theologians, teachers, philosophers, journalists and others with an interest in the interaction between science and faith. CiS currently has over 600 members and 200 student affiliates. In addition, there are currently eleven local branches which are affiliated to the national organisation either informally or formally. These groups run their own programmes which range in format from public lectures to small discussion groups. The events are typically held once or twice a term. Attendance varies enormously, the larger more public events often attracting up to 700 members of the public, whereas about 50 is usual for smaller events.

CiS members regularly contribute to radio and TV programmes, newspaper and magazine articles, government consultations and public events. Many members give lectures on science and religion at universities, churches, science festivals and other events around the country. CiS enjoys a good relationship with most mainstream denominations and para-church organisations in the UK, due to our large and diverse membership base, and our long history of providing high quality resources on science and faith. The organisation has close links with UCCF, is affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance and we work closely with the Faraday Institute in Cambridge. Full membership of CiS involves signing a doctrinal basis of faith.

For those unfamiliar with the work of CiS, further details may be found at www.cis.org.uk and information about the CiS-sponsored journal *Science & Christian Belief* is found at www.scienceandchristianbelief.org.

The Post

Following the award of a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, we are seeking a full time Development Officer to head up a project on “Capacity Building on Science and Faith in the UK Evangelical Community”. The Development Officer will be involved in projects to increase our impact in the UK evangelical community, in

the scientific community and amongst students, and will be involved in synergising with other science-faith outreach activities.

Funding is available for three years and the salary will be in the region of £25,000 per annum depending on qualifications and experience, plus expenses and 10% employer's contribution to a stakeholder pension after 6 months.

Responsibilities

Key elements of the position will be

1. Recruiting new members and retention of current members

In order to maximize our impact in both the faith and scientific communities we aim to triple the present CiS membership from 800 to 2400 members. A key responsibility of the Development Officer will be to raise our profile by targeted marketing within the church community, amongst scientists and amongst students. This will involve personal visits, presentations, mass mailings of CiS recruitment brochures. An additional responsibility will be to enable current members to feel part of a supportive network, both as scientists and as Christians.

2. Encouraging and coordinating local groups

Many scientists become aware of CiS through the activities of local groups. To date we have founded 11 of these. The Development Officer will play a key role in increasing this number to 22, identifying geographical membership clusters and aiming to establish a local group in each of the major cities that host a Russell group University (the top 20 universities in the UK). Establishing, fostering, resourcing and nurturing local groups will be main tasks for the Development Officer.

3. Penetrating the Evangelical Community

One of CiS's key strengths is its evangelical basis of faith and Evangelical Alliance membership, which means that it is acceptable to UK evangelical churches. The Development Officer will play a major role in raising our profile within this group, assisting in planning targeted events in large churches, in the preparation of suitable resources for use in churches and in publicising CiS at key evangelical conferences. Through contacts made at local groups and in universities, he or she will assist in identifying established or emerging speakers in science and faith.

4. Penetrating the Student Community

It is critically important to involve new generations of scientists who can engage in informed dialogue about science and faith. Student groups are usually full of enthusiasm but often have limited knowledge of science-faith issues.. The Development Officer will play a major role in recruiting new student members and providing them with resources to help them in their science studies. This will involve personal visiting and interaction with evangelical student groups such as UCCF and Fusion in universities all round the UK; speaking on science, faith and CiS at student conferences and Christian Union meetings; producing a once-a-term Student Magazine on science and faith that will address key student needs, including commissioning articles, editing and e-mail distribution; organising CiS student conferences; and offering support and training opportunities where appropriate.

5. Penetrating the Scientific Community

There is low awareness of CiS within the secular scientific community partly due to the fact that, unlike the ID and creationist movements, CiS is committed to mainstream science, so does not arouse controversy from that point of view. However

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a high proportion of CiS members are practicing scientists and are actively engaged with all aspects of the scientific community. The Development Officer can help encourage and equip this membership to become more influential both amongst their scientific colleagues as well as in their faith communities. In addition, he or she will foster support networks for practising scientists who may be isolated and unsupported in their church environments.

6. Publicity

The Development Officer will share responsibility for keeping an eye on news and events, coordinate the production of both the Student magazine and the quarterly publication, PreCis, and commission articles and interviews for these where appropriate. He or she will represent CiS at conferences and exhibitions and play a major role in the design of publicity materials. Web-based resources are particularly effective for the student community and for enhancing our international impact and the Development Officer will assist in maintaining the currency of these.

Experience, skills and attributes

The successful applicant

1. Must be a committed evangelical Christian who signs the basis of faith.
2. Will have a degree in a science subject.
3. Must be committed to and enthusiastic for mainstream science.
4. Must have excellent computer and web skills.
5. Must have imagination, initiative and flair for organisation, net-working etc.
6. Must be able and willing to travel regularly within the UK, including weekends.
7. Should enjoy and preferably have some experience of being up-front in meetings etc, although it is not envisaged that the post-holder will give science-faith talks *per se* (unless their gifting is specifically in that area).
8. Must be good at communicating and keeping in touch efficiently with a large number of people.

The role would suit a recent PhD graduate, or someone with several years experience since graduating with a first degree in a mainstream science subject. It is a demanding and varied job that involves travel, working independently, and good organisational and interpersonal skills. It is envisaged that mentoring and pastoral support would be provided by a CiS Committee Member.

Conditions of Appointment

The post will be for three years. However, there will be a six month probationary period prior to confirmation of the remainder of the contract.

Application

Further enquiries and applications should be addressed to Dr. Diana Briggs, 5 Northmoor Road, Oxford OX2 6UW (e-mail: diana@cis.org.uk). Applications should consist of a CV and the names and contact details of three Referees, together with a covering letter explaining briefly why you feel you are suited to the post. Applications should be submitted by 7 March, 2010. We intend to interview in late March.